

Bears Stopped by West Perry

by John Middlekauff
Northern's Basketball Team made the trip to West Perry Tuesday evening (1/16) to take on the hot Mustangs. In a tough battle, the Polar Bears were outscored in three of the four quarters as West Perry notched a 71 to 52 victory. The Mustangs are on a roll, and one that has taken them right into the heart of a very tight Division III race. Northern, while still learning, was in a position to really throw a monkey wrench in to things with a victory but just could not pull it out. Of Northern's 52 points, 30 of them came from Chris Florio and Bart Mehring each who scored 15. Northern also got help from Joe Fox (9 points), and Rick Grimm (8 points) in a losing cause. Bret Thebes led West Perry with 17 points, but from the

Northern side it must have resembled Custer facing the Indians as no less than eleven players figured in scoring for the Mustangs. Northern is now 2-3 within the Division, and 3-7 overall. Next up for the Bears will be a non-division encounter at home against Mechanicsburg before hitting the road with five straight away games beginning on Tuesday (1/16) at Camp Hill. The Bears still have a great chance to pick-up some wins in these next few games, so it should be interesting.
Northern 12 10 10 20 52
West Perry 19 19 17 16 71

Polar Bear Grapplers Splits Pair

by John Middlekauff

Whoever said that things are likely to get worse before they get better, must have had Northern's Wrestling Team in mind. Looking to rebound from a crushing defeat by the Cedar Cliff Colts, followed by a surprising loss to Big Spring, the Polar Bears ran smack-dab into Sunpenia who unceremoniously thumped them 41-8. Northern got a 3-0 victory at 132 lb. by Joel John, a Jerry Steiner 12-6 verdict at 125 lb., and a 2-2 draw from Chris Bentley for all its points! That was it brother! Five other matches were won by one or two points by the Blackwaks, which shows that Northern was basically in the match despite the score.
On Saturday (1/13), the Polar Bears played host to the tough Patriots of neighboring Red



Mike Vaughn scores for Northern as he pins his opponent at 138 lbs.

Photo by Bill McLaughlin

Land. Coming off a less than spectacular performance the last three times out, Northern broke out of its self-imposed slump by knocking off Red Land 37-25. The Bears got well in tall one, as they picked up a strong technical fall from Chad Rosenberger at 119 lb., pins from Mike Vaughn (135) and

Kevin Lettzer (153) to turn back the determined Patriots. Next up for Northern Wrestlers will be a Division I clash with Chambersburg (Home-1/18) and then Blue Mt. rival New Oxford (Home-1/20). It is interesting that these two teams are the next opponents for Northern, as both met each other

the same day Northern hosted Red Land, with Chambersburg bring out a 29-27 decision. Both should give Northern tough competition as the Bears look to get back to their early season successes. There is plenty of season left for Northern's wrestlers to make a lot of noise in Division I.

Mechanicsburg handles Polar Bears

by John Middlekauff

In most athletic contests, how you start or get going in the beginning of an event usually determines how the final outcome will be determined. The Northern Bears got off to an absolute horrible start and lost at home Friday night (1/12) to the Mechanicsburg Wildcats 47-32. Truthfully, the Wildcats weren't all that inspiring, but they had more than enough to hand Northern its eighth loss (overall) of the year. The Polar Bears could only high the nets for five points in each of the first two quarters, as Mechanicsburg built up a 22-10 half-time lead. While Northern was able to double its offensive output in the second half, it was not enough to overcome the Wildcats' lead.

The Bears were led, once more, by Chris Florio who had a game-high fourteen points. Bart Mehring added the cause with ten points of his own, but it wasn't enough. Mechanicsburg, for the second time this year, was able to put a blanket over Joe Fox, limiting him to just three points, and really keeping him out of the picture.

Northern will head over to Camp Hill Tuesday (1/16) night to take on the Lions. Camp Hill is having the kind of season Northern experienced last year, to this point they have not won a game! Enough said!

Northern
Jamouneau 1-0-2; Grimm 0-1-1; Florio 4-6-14; Mehring 2-6-10; Fox 1-1-3; Ference 0-2-2. Totals: 8-16-32.
Mechanicsburg 12 10 12 13-47
Northern 5 5 10 12-32

Books

by Ralph Hollenbeck

WEBSTER'S WORD HISTORIES (Morrow/Weber, Inc. \$14.95). THE ROOTS OF ENGLISH, by Robert Claiborne (Times Books \$18.95).

What's in a word? Far more than most persons probably realize. The beauties of the English language (the most widely used in the world), its origins, and meanings, generally are overlooked by a population satisfied to get by on a minimal usage sufficient to make themselves understood.

Fortunately, Yankee lexicographer Noah Webster and his philological successors have kept an interest alive for those to whom speech is more than just a guttural method of communication. Webster's Word Histories is just the latest, and an extremely fascinating, tracing of the beginnings of the common and not so common words we use. And not all the origins are rooted in ancient Greek and Latin. The word "goon," for instance, signifying either a simpleton or a terrorist, first appeared in the 1920s in the comic strip "Thimble Theater," forerunner of "Popeye." That is merely one among the more than 1,500 informative inserts in these "Word Histories."

Mr. Claiborne, author of numerous books on the English language, drives more into the ethnic backgrounds of our language. His etymological genealogy of core combinations from the Indo-European, Germanic, Romance tongues, and Old English that provide the bases for so many seemingly irreconcilable yet similarly derivative words, is awe-inspiring.

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